

Minutes of Uintah Basin Regional Council held on January 3, 2008

Attending: Tammie Lucero, Jack Bell, Julie Curry, Randall Bennett, Bill Johnson, Dan Wheeler, Dave Haslem, Judy Chambley, John Wahl, Sharon Wilkins, Mark Raymond, Mark Holmes, Curtis Dastrup, Irene Hansen, Greg Todd, Joseph Shaffer, Floyd Wyasket, Wayne Dunbar

Guests from Education: Marty Kelly, Donica Bigelow, Carolyn Davis,

DWS Guests: Mike Richardson, Connie Laws, Jane Broadhead, Lynn Purdin, Steve Maas, Michael Hanni, Carrie Mayne

DWS Staff: Shelly Ivie, Toni Ansel, Margo Weeks, Bob Gilbert

Tammie welcomed Joseph Shaffer as a new member. Joseph will be representing the Department of Health.

The July 11th minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept from Mark Raymond, Second by Randall. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Tammie introduced Mike Richardson, DWS State Council liaison. Mike then introduced the DWS staff he had brought from Salt Lake City. Mike provided an overview of the State Council's role in workforce development and how it is a catalyst in bringing education, industry and government together to address issues. He also reviewed the Regional Council's role in developing and reviewing plans for workforce development and support services. He then introduced Steve Maas, DWS Director for Workforce Development.

Steve Maas said that the healthcare industry was really needing Registered Nurses back in 2004. DWS got some healthcare groups together, and 'built' some additional RN classes in Salt Lake and Utah Counties. This was called the BORN initiative. The group also began to address the master's teacher shortage – those who teach the RN courses. This process was the first experience in working on a sector strategy; another opportunity came up with the training center in Carbon County, now called WETC. About this time the economy really took off, and job growth has been strong since, making it a little more difficult to build new training programs. With the targeted sectors approach, we want to focus on jobs that have benefits, good wages, and advancement opportunities. We began the targeted sectors approach, which today includes the Automotive, Energy, Construction, Health sectors and Basic Education. Each have a strong private industry chair and are moving forward with selecting and achieving objectives. Early on, we realized that all the sectors have a similar foundation of basic skills.

Lynn Purdin then talked about the career paths that have been developed, as well as labor market information for each of the sectors. She distributed some of the materials that have been prepared to support each sector taskforce. Presented a proposed action plan

for each sector. Common requirement among sectors was a marketing plan to promote and describe opportunities. DWS and Education are working together develop some tools that could be used in marketing and promoting these careers. We are hoping to see additional work on pathways that guide high school students into these careers. Task Forces are continuing their planning. We would like to see each Regional Council work to identify their own goals and build upon what has done by the task forces.

Marty Kelly, State Adult Ed Director, was introduced. She said that they are trying to reconnect and reengage youth with school. Want to encourage adults, that lack skills, to go into postsecondary training programs. The Office of Education has prepared a career pathways booklet. It can also be accessed on schools.utah.gov. We are talking about making a curriculum that has more job-ready skills-specific for students. We are also trying to address the need to educate a more diversified clientele.

Michael Hanni presented some economic information about the targeted sectors. Healthcare comprises 8% of the state workforce; in Eastern it comprises 7%. There will continue to be a need for RNs. Construction comprises 8% of the state workforce; in Eastern it comprises 3% of the total. Automotive sector accounts for 5.6% of the state workforce. Includes car parts and manufacturing, auto sales, truck transportation, etc. There is a huge projected demand for truck drivers. Energy accounts for 1.3% of workers statewide. Includes mining, oil and gas, power plants, etc. Accounts for 47% of Eastern Region. Energy average wage is \$5403 per month.

Mike referred us back to the handout. Said some of the tools/strategies will be done at the state level, and will involve some internet tools and information. Want to develop strategies on sectors that are important to Eastern Region -- each Council choose the ones that you want to work on. Thanked those who have been involved in the sector task forces.

Mike said we need to get parents involved in the process so they can support their kids in going to targeted sector careers. It will also be important to get articulation agreements between high schools and post high school training cataloged. As Councils choose their strategies/sectors, it will become part of the DWS plan and program that will be presented to the legislature.

Donica Bigelow, Uintah County Adult Ed, said they have partnered with DWS, Voc Rehab, and UBATC in working with students and helping them develop career pathways. The partnership has had good success in working with adults who are illiterate. One of the adults was referred by an employer.

We have quantified that over 200,000 workers in Utah don't have a GED or diploma. We want to reengage these and get them further training and skills.

Jane Broadhead said we can use our Regional Youth Councils to address issues and pathways with the youth.

Mike said we haven't set timelines yet, but would like to have some concrete things to report by the October Council of Councils.

LUNCH BREAK

Michael Hanni provided a brief economic update for the 3rd Quarter. In the Basin, the data shows some growth, but the growth rate is decreasing. The labor market is stretched so tight that the very high growth rate is expected to slow down.

REPORTS

Joseph Shaffer, Tri County Public Health Director, said that he has two major health issues to discuss. The first is that the avian bird flu is coming. The state is sending the Basin 600 courses of treatment, which is not enough to have much impact. Joseph said we have a 1-2 year opportunity to get a drug stockpile of the antedote, as it is available from the federal government, at a very reasonable cost. Joseph is working to get the word out to employers and others to let him know and he can purchase the pills via a federal contract.

Joseph also mentioned the "Radiation Vacation", which is a van to take local folks needing radiation therapy out to SLC for treatment. Need about \$75,000-100,000 to get it off the ground. Please contact Joseph for additional information.

Judy then gave the Director's report. She asked Connie Laws to provide an update on the Incumbent Worker Award Program. Connie said that the recent round of Incumbent Worker training resulted in proposals from 63 companies, for a total of \$11.5 million. After review, financial awards were made to 19 companies. UBATC, acting for an industry consortium, will be awarded \$300,000 for a well-drilling simulator. Mark Raymond, speaking for USU and UBATC, thanked DWS for the well simulator funding. Judy then reviewed performance measures for the state and region. She also indicated that we are modernizing our services so customers can get services online. There is a fairly new call center in St. George where initial phone calls go, then the case management is sent out to local centers. Now, in an order to use our trained workforce, Eastern Region is doing some of the case management work for other regions. Have 1000 cases, and expect to get another 2000 cases. Thanked everyone for their help and support.

Bob told members that Judy is retiring on January 31 and a reception will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 on that day at the USU Building in Vernal. All are invited.

Meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2 in Vernal.